

103D CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 169

To express the sense of the Congress that the United States should seek compliance by all countries with the conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 20, 1993

Mr. STUDDS (for himself, Mr. MANTON, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SAXTON, and Ms. SNOWE) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Congress that the United States should seek compliance by all countries with the conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna adopted by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, and for other purposes.

Whereas Atlantic bluefin tuna are a valuable commercial and recreational fishery of the United States;

Whereas many countries, including the United States, fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”), is the international entity established to adopt recommendations and develop international agreements for the conservation and management of Atlantic bluefin tuna and other highly migratory species in the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas in the last 25 years Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks have declined from historic levels;

Whereas, for management purposes, the Commission has adopted a working hypothesis of 2 stocks of Atlantic bluefin tuna: a western stock found in the Atlantic Ocean west of 45 degrees west longitude (hereinafter referred to as the “45 degree line”), and an eastern stock found in the Atlantic Ocean east of the 45 degree line and in the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas the 45 degree line delineation is considered to be arbitrary, and the extent to which each of the hypothesized stocks migrates across the 45 degree line is unknown;

Whereas the Commission adopted conservation and management recommendations in 1974 to ensure the recovery and sustainability of all Atlantic bluefin tuna throughout the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas, in recent years, the Commission has adopted additional, more restrictive conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna, for countries that fish for Atlantic bluefin tuna west of the 45 degree line;

Whereas the United States and other countries that are members of the Commission and that fish west of the 45 degree line have implemented all conservation and man-

agement recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna adopted by the Commission that apply west of the 45 degree line;

Whereas many other countries that are members of the Commission do not comply with conservation and management recommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna adopted by the Commission that apply east of the 45 degree line and in the Mediterranean Sea;

Whereas this continuing failure to comply east of the 45 degree line and in the Mediterranean Sea by countries that are members of the Commission will undermine the recovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks;

Whereas recent large increases in the catch of Atlantic bluefin tuna within 100 miles east of the 45 degree line by countries that are members of the Commission are having a negative impact on the recovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna and probably do not comply with recommendations of the Commission; and

Whereas countries that are not members of the Commission are having a negative impact on the recovery of Atlantic bluefin tuna stocks by fishing throughout the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea without regard for conservation and management recommendations adopted by the Commission: Now, therefore, be it

- 1       *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
- 2 *concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that—
- 3           (1) the United States and the International
- 4       Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas
- 5       (hereinafter referred to as the “Commission”)
- 6       should continue to promote the conservation and

1 management of Atlantic bluefin tuna throughout the  
2 Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea;

3 (2) the United States should obtain commit-  
4 ments through the International Commission for the  
5 Conservation of Atlantic Tunas, from all countries  
6 that are signatories to the International Convention  
7 for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and that are  
8 not in compliance with all of the conservation and  
9 management recommendations and agreements for  
10 Atlantic bluefin tuna that have been adopted by the  
11 Commission, that those countries will immediately  
12 comply with those recommendations and agreements;

13 (3) if such a commitment is not obtained from  
14 a country, or if a country continues to not comply  
15 with those recommendations and agreements of the  
16 Commission, fishing by that country for Atlantic  
17 bluefin tuna will be considered by the Congress to  
18 diminish the effectiveness of an international fishery  
19 conservation program, and as such will be considered  
20 by the Congress to be certifiable under section  
21 8(a)(1) of the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967  
22 (22 U.S.C. 1978(a)(1));

23 (4) the United States should continue to ex-  
24 plore, through the Commission, the appropriateness  
25 of the working hypothesis of the Commission that

1       there are 2 stocks of Atlantic bluefin tuna delineated  
2       by the line 45 degrees west longitude;

3           (5) the United States should seek through the  
4       Commission an agreement to ensure that if the  
5       Commission uses any line to divide the stock of At-  
6       lantic bluefin tuna for management purposes and  
7       adopts for that stock conservation and management  
8       recommendations for one side of the line that are  
9       more restrictive than the conservation and manage-  
10      ment recommendations adopted by the Commission  
11      for the other side of the line, then any fishing for  
12      Atlantic bluefin tuna within 10 degrees of the line  
13      shall be conducted in compliance with those more re-  
14      strictive recommendations;

15          (6) the United States should continue to en-  
16      courage all countries that fish for Atlantic bluefin  
17      tuna or other highly migratory species in the Atlan-  
18      tic Ocean or the Mediterranean Sea to become par-  
19      ticipants in the International Convention for the  
20      Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and the Commission;  
21      and

22          (7) if such participation by a country is not se-  
23      cured, the continued fishing by the country without  
24      regard for the conservation and management rec-  
25      ommendations for Atlantic bluefin tuna that are

1        adopted by the Commission will be considered by the  
2        Congress to diminish the effectiveness of an inter-  
3        national fishery conservation program, and as such  
4        will be considered by the Congress to be certifiable  
5        under section 8(a)(1) of the Fishermen's Protective  
6        Act of 1967 (22 U.S.C. 1978(a)(1)).

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